



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AUG 12 2008

Ms. Mimi Drew
Director
Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mail Station 3500
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Dear Ms. Drew:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the revisions to Chapter 62-302, *Surface Water Quality Standards*, subsection 62-302.800, Site Specific Alternative Criteria (SSAC). These revisions were duly adopted by the Environmental Regulatory Commission on June 28, 2007, and became effective on August 5, 2007. The revised criterion was submitted by letter from Thomas M. Beason, General Counsel of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to James Palmer, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4, dated September 24, 2007. The letter included a certification that the revisions to Florida water quality standards "were duly adopted pursuant to state law."

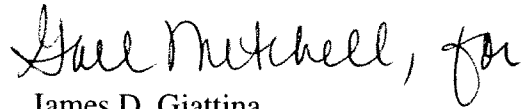
The SSAC for pH establishes a revised water quality criterion for the discharge wetlands at the Orange County Eastern Water Reclamation Facility (EWRF), which remains classified and protective for all designated uses of Class III waters, including recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. The revised criterion requires that the pH within the EWRF discharge wetlands be "not greater than 8.5 standard units."

Based on review of the documentation submitted by the State, the revision to Florida water quality standards which established a revised criterion for the EWRF discharge wetlands is scientifically defensible and protects the Class III designated uses of the wetlands. Therefore, the SSAC is consistent with the provisions of 40 CFR Part 131.11 and the Clean Water Act (CWA). In accordance with Section 303(c) of the CWA, EPA is hereby approving the SSAC as a revision to Florida water quality standards.

I would also like to commend you and your staff for their prompt attention to address the request for additional data and information on the macroinvertebrate community. The additional data that was provided was beneficial for the demonstration that the SSAC would be protective for all designated uses of the EWRF discharge wetlands.

If you have any questions regarding EPA's approval, please contact me at (404) 562-9470 or have a member of your staff contact Ms. Laurie Lindquist, Florida Water Quality Standards Coordinator, at (404) 562-9249.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gael Mitchell, for". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James D. Giattina
Director
Water Management Division

cc: Thomas M. Beason, FDEP
Eric Shaw, FDEP